Dr. A. G. Menon.—I am glad to hear the assurance held out by the Diwan.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—It is one of the easiest things also.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—It must be carried out.

Plague Report.

164. Mr. C.J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer has submitted any report with regard to the out-break of plague in Mattancheri and Ernakulam; and if so, will they be pleased to place the same on the Table;

(2) will the Government kindly state whether they are taking any steps now to prevent altogether the breaking out of plague in these places in future ; if so, what steps ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) Yes. The report is placed on the Council Table.

(2) Strict vigilance is maintained regarding undue rat mortality in both the towns and dead rats are being examined from time to time. No other special measures are practicable except general sanitary improvement which is being done.

Lapse of budget allotments for new roads in the State.

165. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly state:—

(a) whether any amount or portion of amount sanctioned during the last three years for opening new roads in the different parts of the State has been allowed to lapse ; and

(b) if so, the action taken by them against the officers who were responsible for so allowing the amount to lapse in each case;

(c) whether any amount or portion of amount sanctioned to construct a new road to Melur from Chalakkudi has been allowed to lapse ; and if so, what were the reasons for allowing such lapse and whether its construction will suffer because of this lapse, if any ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No action was taken against any officer.

(c) The estimate for the road is under preparation. In the meanwhile steps are being taken to acquire the required lands. The work is proposed to be taken up as soon as the lands are acquired.

Mr. C.J. Mathew.—May I know from the allotments made for the construction of new roads, how many cases of lapses have been noticed this year ?

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